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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
THIRD TRIENNIAL CONVENTION
OF THE
WEST NEWTON
STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,
Franklin
JULY 26, 1848.

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- I. JOURNAL OF THE CONVENTION.
II. SALUTATORY ADDRESS, BY MISS E. N. LINCOLN.
III. ADDRESS BY REV. R. C. WATERSTON.
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BOSTON:
LEONARD C. BOWLES.
1848.

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31

JOURNAL OF THE CONVENTION.

WEST NEWTON, JULY 26TH, 1848.

At 9 o'clock the members of the Convention assembled in Normal Hall, when the exercises of the morning commenced with a song of welcome, by the members of the School, Mr. Lowell Mason presiding at the piano. At its conclusion all joined in singing the following

SONG.

Tune — "Auld Lang Syne."

We come! a joyous sister band!
A happy family!
From every quarter of our Land,
To share a Jubilee!
From "teaching young ideas to shoot,"
In many a village school;
From mysteries of "power" and "root,"
And "mathematic" rule;
Forsaking "Blackboard," "Bell," and "Book,"
And peradventure "Rod,"
We come on these "old paths" to look,
Our feet "lang syne" have trod.
Three years have sped, since last we met, —
Three long, eventful years; —
And with them borne their 'customed weight, —
Alternate smiles and tears.

Three years have brought us many a heart,
 Imbued with love and truth,
 In the great work to bear a part,
 Of educating youth.

Time, too, has vacant places made
 In this our little band:—
 Some of our loveliest, low are laid,
 By the Death-angel's hand!

Let not the solemn warning fall
 Unheeded on our ears;
 Let us obey the earnest call
 To labor 'midst our tears:—

Labor for God and man, while day
 Gives strength to heart and hand:
 So shall death's night but prove the way
 To the blest spirit land.

H. S. T.

Prayer was then offered by Rev. Dr. Ripley, of West Newton Theological Seminary. This was followed by a "Salutation" from the Principal, Mr. Peirce.

Sarah A. Clark, a member of the school, now stepped forward, and presented a beautiful silver vase filled with flowers, in the following words:

Mr. Peirce:—The present members of the Normal School would offer you, in behalf of yourself and lady, this vase. We do not offer it for its beauty or value; but simply because we love you, and wish to *express* our love to you. Take it, then, as a memorial of our deep and abiding sympathy;—as a testimonial of our gratitude for your unceasing efforts to benefit us. And, above all, take it as a pledge that we will endeavor to profit by your instructions, that when you shall appear at the great Gathering of souls, your crown may be wreathed with Normal blossoms, bright and pure as those now before you."

Mr. Peirce rose to receive it, and replied:—"I accept the valued gift, my dear pupils, with deep-felt gratitude and pleasure. My heart is too full now to utter more. You who know me will understand my feelings, even though I take it, and say no more."

The following *Hymn* was then sung:

Tune—"Granville."

Father! at Thy throne we offer
 This, our weak, imperfect lay;

Grant a blessing for the future
Which hath dawned on us to-day.

Seekers after Truth and Duty,
We would know and do THY will ;
To each base and earth-born passion
Speak THY mandate : — “Peace! be still !”

Make us CHRIST-like, pure and holy ;
Fit us for our mission high ;
Than we THY little ones offend
Better ’t were that we should die.

When THY tender lambs surround us,
Humbly asking to be fed,
Let us now prepare to give them,
Not a *stone*, but *living bread*.

From all sin and folly free us ;
Let THY strength pervade each heart ;
Watch, and keep, and guard, and guide us ;
Teach us all a Teacher’s part.

So may we THY Law fulfilling,
All THY perfect Law of Love,
Called to leave *this* sphere of duty,
Find a *nobler* one above!

S. P.

Electa N. Lincoln rose and delivered from the desk, in an easy and graceful style, a “Welcoming Address.”

At its conclusion the following Hymn was sung :

Now to Heav’n our prayer ascending, —
God speed the right !
In a noble cause contending, —
God speed the right !
Be our zeal in Heaven recorded,
With success on earth rewarded :
God speed the right !

At 10 o’clock an Address was delivered by Rev. Robert C. Waterston. After this, the visitors and invited guests withdrew until the appointed hour, 1 o’clock, P. M., for assembling in the Town Hall.

A private meeting of the members of the Convention was held. Electa N. Lincoln was chosen Chairman ; — Sara H. Page, Secretary.

It was moved by Elizabeth Austin, and seconded by Sarah Watson, that Mr. Waterston's Address and Miss Lincoln's Address be published in a pamphlet form, together with the Proceedings of the Convention.

Misses Sarah Watson, Maria M. Mosely, and Sara H. Page, were appointed a committee to carry the above vote into effect.

Voted, That another Convention be held in this place three years from the present time.

The following preamble and resolutions were then offered and accepted :

“ Believing as we do that Normal Schools are highly beneficial to the cause of Education, and that the principles enforced upon the members of these institutions are sound and true, we, the members of the West Newton State Normal School, past and present, do resolve,

1st. That we will openly and fearlessly espouse their cause, endeavoring by word and deed to inspire all persons with that confidence in their measures which we ourselves possess.

2ndly. Resolved, that it shall be our constant aim to develope in our lives as teachers, and as members of a social community, the principles here instilled. Regarding those intrusted to our care as immortal beings, for the right unfolding of whose natures we are greatly responsible to our fellows and to God, we will strive according to our best knowledge and ability to train them physically, intellectually, and morally, as children of God should be trained ; — teaching them first of all love to the Father, as shown in trustful obedience to his laws ; and secondly, love to each other, as shown in the discountenancing and breaking down of all artificial barriers between man and man, and in acts of kindness towards all members of the human race.

3dly. Resolved, that we will receive with humility, the admonition silently given us by our Heavenly Father, in the removal of many of our members to another Sphere ; — a dispensation which calls us to greater vigilance in the fulfilling of our duties while our day lasts.

4thly. Resolved, and that the decease of our late friend and teacher, Caroline Tilden, is an event for which we will not uselessly sorrow, knowing that “ while dead she yet speaketh ; ” — but, thankful for her bright example, we will endeavor to follow it so far as she followed the Great Teacher ; striving to walk humbly, fearlessly, truthfully before God and our fellow-beings.”

At 1 o'clock the members of the Convention left Normal Hall, and walked in procession to the Town Hall. This, like Normal Hall, was

beautifully trimmed with evergreen, and oak-wreaths, and hung round with appropriate mottoes. Here the company partook of a choice Collation, and after spending an hour in social intercourse, the exercises of the afternoon were introduced with the following

SONG.

“ Old Granite State.” Adapted.

We have come from nooks and corners,
 We have come from nooks and corners,
 We have come from nooks and corners,
 Of the “ Old Bay State !”
 We are all a band of Sisters,
 We are all a band of Sisters,
 We are all a band of Sisters,
 And we hold each other dear.

With hard and patient labor,
 With hard and patient labor,
 With hard and patient labor,
 We are striving to improve ;
 And we’ve kind friends and patrons,
 And we’ve kind friends and patrons,
 And we’ve kind friends and patrons,
 Though our enemies reprove.

We are all true-hearted Normals,
 We are all true-hearted Normals,
 We are all true-hearted Normals,
 Of the “ State Normal School.”
 Oh ! we love this Institution,
 We’ll uphold its Constitution,
 Oh ! we love this Institution,
 And its merits we’ll extol.

Now, while the air is ringing
 With our joyful, happy singing,
 We will turn with grateful feeling,
 To the Leaders of our band :
 We look upon the features
 Of our own dear, week-day preachers,
 And a blessing for the Teachers
 Bursts forth from every heart.

Now, three cheers altogether ;
 We’ll not forget them ever,
 True hearts time cannot sever,
 Of this dear happy School :

While hearts and hands are joined thus,
 We'll swell our gladsome chorus,
 Till the arch of heaven o'er us,
 Shall return the loud hurrah :
 Hurrah ! Hurrah ! Hurrah ! S. P.

The Convention then listened to Addresses on different topics connected with Education, from the following gentlemen : Rev. Samuel H. Winkley of Boston, Rev. Mr. Heywood of Kentucky, Rev. Mr. Waterston of Boston, Rev. Mr. Allen of New Hampshire, Rev. Mr. Muzzey of Cambridgeport, Professor Crosby of Dartmouth College, W. B. Fowle of Boston, and Rev. Mr. Robinson of Medfield.

Selections from the "Experiment" were read, from which we quote the following

STATISTICS.

This school was opened at Lexington, July 3d, 1839, with the examination of three pupils by the Principal, in the presence of Jared Sparks, LL. D., Hon. Robert Rantoul, visiting committee, Hon. Horace Mann, Secretary of the Board, and a few others. These three were all that presented themselves for admission on the day appointed for the opening of the school. At the close of the first term, the school numbered 12 pupils. At the commencement of the second term, Gov. Everett delivered an address on Education to the school, and to a numerous audience in the church at Lexington. A considerable accession to the numbers of the school was made during the second term. The school continued at Lexington five years, — three years from its opening under its present Principal, Mr. Peirce, and two under the Rev. S. J. May. After that period, it was removed to this place and again came under the charge of its first teacher. The Normal Building, formerly used for a private academy, was purchased by a friend of the School, (Hon. Josiah Quincy, Jr., the present Mayor of Boston,) and devoted to its present use. Since the opening of the school, 482 pupils have been admitted. From unforeseen causes, a considerable number have been obliged to leave before completing a full year ; and many have staid longer than the required time. Since the commencement of the school, 23 have died, 52 have been married. About 300 are teaching at the present time. The largest class that ever entered the school numbered 40, and the greatest number of pupils ever in the school at one time, was 84. During the present term, 68 have been connected with the school. The demand for teachers from this institution has been much greater this summer than at any previous time ; — greater, by far, than the limited number of graduates could supply.

This demand gives good evidence that they have generally taught with success, and encourages the hope of a more extended sphere of usefulness for our State Normal Schools.

A Hymn was then sung ;

Tune — “ Ward.”

Prayer shall be uttered, ere we part ;
Its fervent breath, from every heart,
Will strengthen Friendship's gentle power,
And hallow this, — the closing hour.

O God ! how often vain, are we ;
Whose strength should be humility !
Can'st THOU, who knowest all, forgive ?
And aid us truthfully to live ?

We've knelt in thought at earthly shrine,
And deemed our idols half divine !
Yet, sure as twilight's melting ray,
Our cherished dreams would fade away.

We're grateful, that the spirit may
An altar find, where no decay
Can ever come. It is the throne
Of Love, Truth, Purity, alone !

How grand a task, these themes to teach !
O ! for an eloquence, to reach
The minds that we would guard and guide,
And keep with healthful food supplied !

Our parting offering we bring, —
Perpetual gratitude we sing
For him, our Normal Guide and Friend,
Whose teachings onward, upward tend.

M. E. W.

Then all was closed by the well-known Parting Benediction from the Principal,

LIVE TO THE TRUTH.

The members of the Convention present during the day, numbered about two hundred.

The company dispersed at 6 o'clock, P. M., well pleased with what they had seen and heard, and looking forward with joyful anticipations

to many returns of this happy Anniversary, which shall bring them again and again,

“On these old paths to look,
Their feet “lang syne” have trod.”

S. H. PAGE, Sec.

P. S. In the evening, many of the pupils gathered at the house of the Principal, and spent an hour in pleasant conversation, indulging in Reminiscences of the Past.

SALUTATORY ADDRESS.

BY MISS E. N. LINCOLN.

It has been the custom since the first settlement of this our loved New England, for heads of families, at least once a year, to call home all the absent ones ;—to gather from far and near, from high way and by way, from hill and valley, from the busy scenes of life and from colonial homes, loving, trusting, and true hearts ; to assemble them once more around the festal board and the family altar, — to partake of the rich gifts of the season and to unite in thank-offerings for blessings received, and in prayers for a continuance of those blessings.

Like the voice of some good old pilgrim patriarch, has the call this year gone forth from our revered, time-worn, and honored Normal Father, to his scattered children, to leave their every day walks, and with joyful and thankful hearts once more to grasp his parental hand. That voice has been wafted onward, impelled by paternal love, till the distant hills of Berkshire caught and reverberated it ; — the quick ears of Normals there heard it, and then responded by glistening eyes and glowing hearts, and now respond by the presence of happy faces. Northward, eastward, and southward, have those accents passed, till our little streamlets all over the State have joined in a glad chorus and bubbled forth in childish glee to all her Normals, “ come ; ” — while the broad Connecticut, the noble Merrimack, and quiet Charles, in more deep, but no less tender

and persuasive tones, have repeated — “come.” The ocean waves have sympathized with the general call, and “come” has glowed upon the sands of her shores, and echoed from her rocks, while to neighboring islands, even, has she borne the welcome word.

But the boundaries of our State have not shut in the glad summons; — to the pine forests, granite hills, and verdant mountains of the north, it has passed, while the Delaware, Susquehannah, and Ohio have reflected it.

And you have answered the glad summons. From the little red school house on the hill, you have for a few days permitted flaxen-headed, sunny faced boys and girls to wander, that ye may become school-girls in imagination once more. You have locked the doors of the more commodious and smart looking school houses in the village, that ye may here unlock the fountains of love you have so long cherished in your hearts, and pour of their rich treasures upon your old, tried, and true friends. In village and in city, you have ceased your instructions, that you may gather round the Experienced and the Tried, and drink in again from his presence and counsel, patience, love, and faith, that shall lead you on to stronger efforts in future, to greater acts of self-devotion.

There is hardly need, now and here, of our bidding you a formal welcome. There are moments when words are useless; when heart speaks so plainly to heart that outward forms seem mockery. We have all looked forward to this day with joyful anticipations, we have come prepared to make the reality no less joyful.

If from year to year, at our thanksgiving board, any loved face is missing, anxious looks are cast from one to another; anxious, serious thoughts find utterance. Many who were wont to commune with us, are, to-day, from various causes, missing from our number. We had hoped here to greet the friend and teacher of many of you, the former Principal of this school, who is unavoidably absent. But we will be cheerful if, in this our day, the sun of his smiles gilds not the scene; for we have realized how, like the mild moonlight influence, a remembrance of them has cheered many an otherwise dark

hour. Many are on this day leading their lambs beside the still waters, deeming it inexpedient to remit their labors even for this season of joy. We will send them, as undoubtedly they send us, heartiest good wishes. Some have taken to themselves husbands, and therefore they cannot come. To those, I would say, let not again your family ties sunder you from us. Bring hither your near ones and your dear ones; they are equally welcome with yourselves; — our hearts, if not our halls, are large enough for our normal brothers as well as our normal sisters. But some are absent from other causes; — the angel of Death has not been idle. He has, since last we met, gathered from this flower-garden of souls and presented to its Lord, a rich bouquet. Many a lovely bud, which was expanding into beauty and grace, he has delicately plucked and placed where it can unfold its petals beneath the more genial light and heat of heaven. Sisters, could the veil which hides from us the spiritual world, be uplifted, could we penetrate into the brightness of the future, we should not mourn because loved ones are borne from us. And, sisters, by *faith* we can uplift that veil, we can penetrate the future; — we can see that though removed from us, our friends are not removed from love, and joy, and peace; but that love and joy and peace are infinitely multiplied unto them. And who knows that they are far removed? Who knows but that the kingdom of God is very near to every one of us? Because our eyes are covered by earth's dross, and we cannot see the spiritual glory, is it a reason that it is not here? Because our ears are deadened, and we do not hear spiritual communings, is it a reason that there are not those communings around and above us? Who knows but that our angel sisters in one bright band, are with us now, loving, rejoicing with us, praying for us? Hark! do you not almost hear their glad strains of joy? Do you not feel the influence of their spirit breathings? By their prayers for you and their communings with you, shall you not be made stronger and better? One of that bright group was known to most of you; — so known, so loved, so honored, that I cannot, and would not, if I could, forbear speaking particularly of her. Your hearts, if not your lips, have ere this uttered tremblingly

her name ; for it is there graven in enduring characters, if acts of love, of self-devotion, can ever leave lasting records.

One of the happiest of our happy number, she moved among us at our last gathering, drinking largely and with avidity from whatever was offered to cheer the soul, to warm the heart. One could hardly realize, who saw her on that day, that she was even then selected for another sphere. But to those who knew her best, or to the attentive observer, the flush upon her cheek, and the bright scintillations of her eye, spoke too plainly of an activity of mind that was fast wearing out its frail tenement. She had already toiled too long, too actively ; but she kept on. Deeply interested in her calling, she labored to inspire others with like zeal. Unhesitatingly, knowing, feeling the destiny that awaited her, she allowed the cords that held her to life, one by one, to snap asunder, while with her remaining strength, by greater effort, her labors were none the less. Many a time have I known her to come to our common home, so exhausted that it was a weariness even to rest ; when the next day found her uncomplainingly, cheerfully pursuing her labors, against reasonings, against entreaties.

Ye who have gathered the instruction that flowed from her lips, learn at what a rich cost it was given you ; prize it highly, and repay the boon by unremitting toil for others. Drink from her bright example, zeal for your high calling ; drink from it forgetfulness of self ; drink from it love for others ; drink humility ; drink fearlessness in the cause of right ; drink faith in your fellow beings ; drink largely as she drank of faith in God, faith, strengthening faith, which alone can sustain you in your arduous calling.

But I cannot speak longer to you of her. I have many other things to say to you ; suffice it, that while her strength lasted, she did what she could, and though she may not have regarded her physical nature enough, as the neglect arose from so high a motive, we can overlook, though we sorrow for it. When at last she sunk beneath her burden, while blessed with a right use of her reasoning faculties she bore all so meekly, so patiently, that a double lesson was given to all her friends. She calmly resigned earth and earth's treasures when what seemed to

her her brightest day, was dawning. For a few weeks before her death, her mind, like a tired bird, fluttered wildly against its prison bars, and though she died amid her flutterings, her last words were, "He doeth all things well." She is now at rest;—no, not at rest. 'Twas her body only that was worn, and the quiet ground of Scituate has afforded that a peaceful bed. A spirit like her's can never tire. Rapid must be her course in searching out and fulfilling God's will. She may be with us here to-day, in yon bright sun tomorrow.

But we will no longer contemplate the dead; the living claim our attention. We came here that our hearts might be made better by our greetings and communings,—that we might encourage each other, if so be that there are any faltering, desponding among us; to admonish each other, if there are any here who need our admonition. It becomes us then to enquire of ourselves and of each other, what we have done in this our chosen calling. Have we been at all times, earnest, faithful, true? Have we devoted ourselves to our work because we wished to do good, or from other, and lower motives? Has it been our aim to instil into the minds and hearts of the little ones committed to our care, principles that shall survive our connection with them; that shall develop themselves in true Christian living? Or have we been patching up the exterior of our pupils, making them showy nothings; yea, worse than nothings, making their hearts receptacles of poison that shall one day be carried all over the system, festering, corroding incurably? Ask of yourselves these questions, and as is the answer, thank God that you have been enabled to do well, or pray for guidance to seek, and strength to keep the true way. Your zeal, your strength, your devotedness, are required for a triple reason, now. They are always required for your own sake, and for the sake of those with whom you are in immediate connection; but now they are particularly needed for the sake of Normalty. It may not be for me to tell you why. You are probably aware that of late much has been said by individuals against this Institution. Copious showers of displeasure have cast their drops, laden with poison or frozen into hail, upon us, evidently to crush and destroy us. I will not

question the motives that led those individuals to say such bitter things against us ; — it may be that their motives were good and pure ; for we read of at least one, who opposing truth and its advocates, thought, verily, that he was doing God service. But from whatever source they originated, whether from love of God or love of self ; whether from a desire to establish truth, or to establish themselves at its expense, as their accusations were so wholly false, as their representations were so wofully distorted, it becomes you and me, and all of us, to protest against them.

Had accusations been cast only at you and me, as pupils and inexperienced teachers, there might have seemed in them some plausibility, for we all know that youth has its indiscretions ; but when preferred against a Veteran of forty-one years service, who has spent the bright morning of life at the teacher's post, who has borne patiently the burden and the heat of noon, who now at eve has not withheld his hands, but intently labors while his sun slowly declines in the west, pausing not even to note its progress, or to contemplate his own labors, who has done all this, not to gain worldly title and honor, (for worldly titles and honor are not for the humble teacher,) but because by so doing, he could answer the great end of his being, and benefit his race, we at once see their fallacy, and our hearts indignantly repel them. I call upon you, then, as you value the cause of truth itself, and as you reverence its advocates, to resist the enemy by *upright, holy living*. Show by your future conduct as teachers, and as members of a social community, that your time spent here has been spent well. Show, by your self-sacrifice for others, that you have been exampled here by one who thought no earthly sacrifice too great for you. Show by your zeal for the advancement of God's reign, that your faith in Him, far from being uprooted, by your sojourn here, has been made deeper, stronger, more glowing. In one word, fearlessly take your stand on what you prayerfully consider *right*, and *live down* all opposition, — humbly, cheerfully, firmly. It can be done. It may not be in the days of our revered leader, it may not be in yours or mine, and many, very many, may yet die martyrs to its cause, but the day will dawn, the

clear bright day, when *Right* will reign supreme. Truth will prevail ; for God is Truth ; and *is not God almighty ?*

The time is coming, haste the day,
The time is coming, smooth the way,
When Prejudice shall be upturn,
When fettered Truth no more shall mourn,
When Ignorance no more shall reign,
And Innocence no more complain ;
When honest Right shall be installed,
No more by slaving chains enthralled.
The time is coming, haste the day,
The time is coming, smooth the way,
Smooth the way, each son and daughter,
Smooth the way, oh, never falter ;
Smooth the way, though your own bones
You dedicate as paving stones ;
With all your powers work while ye may,
With all your strength, oh haste the day.

ADDRESS.

BY REV. R. C. WATERSTON.

THE occasion which has brought us together is one of no common interest. We are surrounded by the friends of education. Many who have here assembled have studied at this institution, and are now practically engaged in the work of instruction. You have come up, this day, from various parts of the Commonwealth, that you may strengthen the ties of sympathy, and look once again upon these pleasant scenes connected with past studies and friendships. Nay, higher motives even than friendship and sympathy have brought you together. You have desired to confer upon the responsibilities of your office, to quicken within your minds the love of improvement ; that you may return to your duties with enlarged views and a renewed zeal.

As you gather in friendly fraternity within these halls, the heavens bend over you with smiles, and the mild air, as it whispers through the branches that overshadow your familiar walks, offers a cordial greeting. There is one present, who perhaps more than all others, will enjoy this hour ; one, who while he has been your Instructor, has ever had your respect and love.* He will rejoice to see once more those who

* Mr. Peirce was appointed by the Board of Education as Principal of the Normal School in 1839. The Report of the Board in 1843, states that "he has fulfilled his duties with honor to himself and usefulness to the community ; never, perhaps, have greater assiduity and fidelity distinguished and rewarded the labors of any instructor." This tribute is yet more true after five years' additional experience.

through former years have been his pupils, and who have gone forth from this Institution to watch over the youthful mind, and exert salutary and elevating influences through society.

You have met together as **TEACHERS**. What office can be more important than that which it is your privilege to hold? You are called to give direction to thought; to influence character; to take the young mind, while the dew of the morning is yet fresh upon it, and pour over it the sunlight which will expand its affections and unfold its powers. You are to guide its observations, to enlighten its judgment, and thus to affect its welfare through life. And not only through this life, — but it may be that your influence will leave an impress, which, for evil or for good, shall endure through ages. What office, then, can be more sacred than yours? It is connected in its results with all that is high and holy in thought and feeling.

The Divine Being himself, is not only a Creator and Benefactor, but, we say it with reverence, He is an Educator, and in this is His chief glory. The power of creating worlds is not so desirable as that of developing mind; of imparting wisdom and virtue to a spirit that is immortal. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the foundations of the earth were laid, the Almighty existed. He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. But who does not feel that God's divinest attributes were not manifested in the creation of worlds, or systems of worlds, though they roll, circle beyond circle, to the utmost bounds of space? Rather do we behold His true greatness in the **PURPOSE** for which those worlds were formed. The material Universe was called into existence that it might become the abode of intelligent spirits, and that it might open to them a boundless sphere for instruction and progress.

Look around upon this marvellous creation; what is it that makes us most powerfully realize the goodness of God? The mountains whose summits are veiled in clouds? Valleys clothed in beauty and fertility? The wide-spread ocean and the over-arching heaven? Is it these? Or is it not rather the **MIND** which gazes upon them, and feels their influence, and is able to study their laws? Stupendous as this outward uni-

verse is, it shrinks and dwindles when compared with the undying Spirit. That is an emanation from God. He has endowed it with faculties by which it may rise ever upward to the Infinite and Eternal. The Supreme Being not only *created* this spirit, but He *educates* it. By all His varied works He seeks to call forth and exercise its powers. Innumerable voices come to it. Innumerable influences are at its side. Society and Providence aid in its instruction. For its advantage, 'day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.' The visible Creation is full of types and symbols shadowing forth the loveliness of Truth.

"Sea, and hill, and wood,
With all the numberless goings on of life "

have each their separate lesson. There is not a star or stone which is not placed before us as a volume to be opened and read. Even the sterner aspects of Nature are intended for the development of the soul. The sterility of the earth calls into exercise skill and energy. We are made to wrestle with difficulties, that we may gain power by overcoming them. Thus God by numberless instrumentalities is constantly seeking to quicken and elevate the faculties of the mind.

What is the history of Humanity but a continued Education? The experiences of the Past become lessons for each succeeding generation. From barbarism and ignorance, man has proceeded to refinement and civilization. One stage of culture has gradually led to another, and however slow advancement may have been, there has still been progress. Thus the Supreme Being, through nature and through providence, teaches not only the Individual but the Race. He is giving a course of instruction which runs through ages — embracing all people and all climes.

In looking to Palestine we behold One, whose name is exalted above every name, who was sent by Infinite Love for the Guidance and Redemption of man. By the Lake of Gennesareth, as the light streamed over the mountains; by the banks of the Jordan, as its placid waters mirrored the clouds that floated over its bosom; in Capernaum, and Nazareth, and Jeru-

salem Jesus stood forth as a TEACHER sent from God. In the synagogue and upon the hill-side, he Instructed the people. He revealed the laws of the spiritual universe, and imparted wisdom to man. Through all he said and did, he was the immaculate Teacher of the world.

Thus may we look up to the highest on earth and the highest in heaven, as alike engaged in the great work of instruction, and every true Teacher, in some limited degree, becomes a sharer in similar labors. According to their fidelity they are aiding in intellectual and spiritual progress. They help the young mind to interpret nature. They guide its thought, answer its questionings and direct its investigations. They act with God and His Providence to impart instruction and develop mind. The Divine Being is constantly acting, not only through nature, but through human agencies—and those who are engaged in the work of Education are employed in duties around which Heaven throws its most sacred sanction. There is no power of intellect, there is no excellence of character which can be too great for such an office. Even Milton, when he laid aside the "Paradise Lost," and left the sublime musings to which with daring imagination he had soared, that he might enter the school-room and become the Guardian of those who met him for instruction, did not there engage in a less lofty vocation. Yet we may rejoice that here is not only a labor for man, but a sphere in many respects peculiarly fitted for the genius of woman. By her quick sympathies and pure affection, she is especially qualified to take an active part in these duties. At a period when the names of Edgeworth and Hamilton, Barbauld and More, Sigourney and Sedgwick are familiar to all; when the female mind has not only signalized itself in general literature, but, as in the case of Mrs. Somerville, has grappled triumphantly with the most difficult problems in science; in such a period none will deny that woman may have the ability to teach even in the highest branches of science and of thought. Not only in the republic of letters, but in works of practical benevolence, the character of woman has shone forth in our day with pre-eminent brightness. Where among Philanthropists can we find a name more justly honored

than that of Elizabeth Fry? And if we turn to our own country we find one not less worthy of admiration,* who has vigorously pursued her work of mercy until the most distant portions of our land have been blest by her labors. Through her efforts commodious Asylums and Hospitals have been reared. She has given peace and comfort to the friendless; and, by her instrumentality, the joy and light of the Gospel have been carried to the dreariest abodes of calamity and crime.

Such instances show what may be accomplished by the talent and energy of woman, and it is an inspiring thought that there are all around us kindred minds, diffusing pure thought and feeling, and preparing a coming generation for the active duties of life. Though their names should not become illustrious in the annals of the world, their deeds will be honored by angels, and their quiet labors will add to human happiness and tend largely to promote the welfare of mankind. It is useless to speak of the superiority of one or the other sex. They each have their distinguishing characteristics, and were formed by the Creator not to be the rivals but the companions and helpmates of each other. There are however qualities which give to the mind of woman a natural affinity with what is beautiful and elevating. When rightly disciplined by the influences of Education and Christianity, she has a delicacy of feeling, a warmth of affection and a purity of sentiment, which peculiarly qualify her for the work of instruction.

I rejoice, therefore, as I look around me here, to see so many who have entered upon this sphere of usefulness. Who have determined to devote their time and talent to this most high and honorable employment. I know not how it would have been possible for them to engage in any work which would have more largely affected the private and public interests of society, or have tended more truly to bless posterity.

Were I asked what should fill with the greatest hope the

* Miss D. L. Dix, at her own expense, unaided by any society or association, has voluntarily visited nearly every State in the Union, personally investigating prisons and hospitals, presenting memorials to the various Legislatures, exposing abuses, suggesting improvements, and accomplishing in fact for this country, what Howard accomplished for Europe.

heart of the Patriot and the Christian as he looked over the hills of New England, I would not point to the thronged factory, or crowded warehouse, to the shipping that whitens our harbors, or the rail-roads that intersect our plains, but I would turn to the Schools, which are thickly scattered over the land, where the children of the whole people are gathered, to receive the instruction which is calculated rightly to develope their powers and establish them in knowledge and virtue. These are the bulwarks of our safety. The surest pledges of our future welfare. Those who with right views instruct in these schools, may justly feel that they are engaged in duties which are among the noblest on earth, and they should be looked upon by others as the Benefactors of their race.

Intending to enter upon such labors it was natural that you should feel a weight of responsibility and be anxious to make every possible preparation for your coming duties. You desired to be thoroughly qualified for every department of your work, to acquire ample knowledge and to understand the best methods by which information might be imparted to others. With this view you embraced the opportunities offered by this Institution. Here you have critically revised your former studies; examined anew each principle, and sifted every element of thought; subjecting all your attainments to the most searching analysis. Thus have you become thoroughly qualified for your various duties. With such preparation and experience it would be presumptuous in me to offer many suggestions respecting the detail of your labors. Those who have entered upon their work with the right spirit, and who honor their vocation as it deserves to be honored, will find new light constantly breaking upon them, and though they may meet with occasional discouragements, they will never despair.

Every Teacher should be possessed not only of various knowledge, but of an elevated character. There should be a sincere homage for truth, a love for what is spiritual. Then will the mind have within it the inspiration of goodness, and there will be around it a purifying and invigorating atmosphere. Good will be accomplished not only by the respect and love which such a character will gain, but by that indefinable spirit

which goes forth from an earnest and sincere mind like an electric power.

The true idea of Education must embrace the various capacities which God has imparted. There are animal appetites, intellectual faculties, and moral and spiritual sentiments. That system of Education is sadly defective which does not aim at the harmonious development of the whole nature. There are conflicting tendencies. These are the elements out of which character is to be created. Each power has its purpose. The whole nature, physical, mental, and moral, is a complete system of checks and balances, intended to act upon and regulate each other. When the rational faculties and moral sentiments are brought into right action, they become as a counterpoise and check upon the various propensities, and may thus control and guide them. One great work of Education is properly to develop the whole nature. The Teacher should, as far as possible, become acquainted with the distinctive characteristics of each child, for each child has peculiarities of its own, and may require some distinctive treatment. Who can question that the Creator has endowed every mind with such gifts, as shall, if properly developed, be for good?

“As great Pythagoras of yore,
Standing beside the Blacksmith's door,
Hearing the hammers, as they smote
The anvils with a different note,
Stole, from the varying tones, that hung
Vibrant on every iron tongue
The secret of the sounding wire
And formed the seven-chorded lyre.”

Thus may we by proper study, discover the secret harmony of the Soul, and so tune every power and sentiment and feeling, as to bring from each vibrating string, strains which shall echo the music of heaven.

If I were asked what was the most desirable attainment on the part of a Teacher, I should say, to be able to awaken in the minds of others A LOVE OF KNOWLEDGE — and A LOVE OF GOODNESS.

The Love of knowledge is something deeper than knowledge itself. If a person has knowledge and no love for it, he will not appreciate its value or derive from it the pleasure which the right reception of it would impart. If a person has the *love* of knowledge he will value it for its own sake, and be ready to overcome every obstacle which may lie between him and higher attainments. If God should hold Truth in one hand, and in the other the ever-active impulse to the pursuit of Truth, and should offer us our choice,* it would be wiser to choose the latter — for *that* becoming an internal principle would lead us ever, with inquiring and delighted minds, — onward and upward. It is this active impulse — this love — which we should seek to awaken in the minds of the Young. There is a mechanical reception of information which may make a good show for a time. There may be a facility of acquisition, which will be after all but an acquisition of words. It will glitter like frost-work and melt as soon. How many who give great promise in their youth, never rise above mediocrity in after years. Why is this? It is because the true spring has never been touched. They were borne onward for a time — but it was by an outward force, and when that was gone, they stood still. They had no real love for truth — no aspirations for continued progress. There was no spontaneous feeling within panting to know more than had yet been acquired. Thus the moment that the outward pressure was removed, progress ceased, and so it will ever be unless the love of improvement is kindled within. It is pre-eminently desirable to breathe into the mind that quickening spirit which will impart energy and strength and lead it to put forth vigorously all its powers. It may be said that this cannot be done, and no doubt in some instances it will be found very difficult. However there is a wide contrast in different methods of instruction. Some are good disciplinarians. They drill well — and they force their pupils through a particular routine — but it is all task-work, like the pulling of a dead weight. There are others who awaken curi-

* A thought somewhat similar to this may be found in the German of Lessing.

osity and excite an inward interest. Mind comes in contact with mind, and an air of freshness and joy is thrown over all. What a different effect these two influences must produce! Under the latter the mind itself puts forth its energies and eagerly seizes upon the objects presented; makes them matters of thought and reflection. Wherever such a mind looks, it throws around it a light of its own. The world is filled with beauty, and the universe becomes like a treasure-house of knowledge opening to the inquiring spirit its unbounded wealth. The power of awakening such an interest is difficult, but it is possible. It may be awakened in different degrees, according to the native gifts of the mind — but it should always be the aim of the instructor to lead to this result. There is no attainment greater than to be able to warm and expand the faculties of others. To inspire them with vigor and lead them to an innate love of improvement.

But it is not enough to impart a Love of Knowledge — we must impart also a Love of Goodness. Education without this will be of little service. Any amount of information would be inadequate to satisfy the mind, unless there were also Virtue. There are spiritual powers and affections which plead for development. We should lead the mind to pant for an Infinite good; to revere the laws of God; to cherish an uncompromising love for the right; to feel an instinctive homage for whatever is just, and pure, and true. We should enlighten the reason, and spiritualize the affections, and christianize the conscience. It may not be in our power always to attain this result, but to accomplish it as far as may be possible, should be the high aim of the teacher. And this may be done without infringing upon the conflicting opinions of religious sects. Goodness is of universal application. It shines down like the light of heaven upon all sincere Christians, and should be prized by them all alike. Each denomination may have its name, like the creeks and bays along our coast, but virtue and holiness are the deep sea whose living waters flow through them all. There are views upon which Christians are divided, but there are many principles which they hold in common, and it is these which should be recognized and inculcated by the Teacher. Thus may the

mind of childhood be early impressed by the everlasting beauty of truth, and its better nature be called forth and strengthened. It is this view of Education which gives dignity and grandeur to the Teacher's office.

The mere creation of a perfect Form, hewn from marble, has given to some men immortality ; but what is this to the developing of Mind ? What was the achievement of Phidias when he wrought the Olympian Jove, that glory of Grecian Art, compared with the formation of a character, which has the power of thought and feeling, and an undying existence ?

Turn to the Parthenon and look upon the work of the sculptor. Gaze on the forms which seem almost gifted with motion, as if the Artist, while the chisel trembled and glowed in his hand, had imparted to the insensible stone his own kindling emotions. And then turn to the Teacher in the presence of living, breathing Childhood, fresh with innocent affection ; and behold that Teacher giving direction to thought, developing the faculties, opening out for its research inexhaustible mines of wisdom. Which is the grandest, the chiseling of marble, or the culture of Mind ? That mind which will still endure, when

"Cloud-capp'd towers, and gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,
And, like an insubstantial pageant faded,
Leave not a rack behind !"

Such are your important, and I may say sublime duties. May the Source of all wisdom guide and support you in your labors. You will no doubt have your trials, but there is no sphere of worthy action without them, and meeting them with the right spirit will make your labors the more honorable. If you should not accomplish at once all you may desire, be not discouraged. As you scatter the seed of truth, have faith that it will eventually take root.

"Long, indeed, beneath the clod,
It may lie — forgot, — unseen, —
Noxious weeds may clothe the sod,
Changing seasons intervene,

Summer's heat and winter's frost —
YET THAT SEED SHALL NE'ER BE LOST.

But at length it will appear,
Rising up o'er all the plain,
First the blade and then the ear,
THEN THE RIPE, AND GOLDEN GRAIN!"

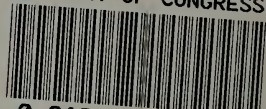
I might speak of the peculiar importance of your labors at this time, when the most powerful monarchies of the world are shaken, and the desolating storms of Revolution are sweeping over the earth; when at home the tide of foreign emigration is fast rolling in, and many are looking with painful apprehension upon the stability of our institutions; when questions are beginning to agitate the country which will eventually shake it to its centre. At such a period our chief hope is in the thorough and wise education of the people. The duties of the Teacher under such circumstances, become doubly sacred; and to carry them out in a high and noble spirit may well be considered as worthy of any effort or sacrifice.

I cannot close these remarks without referring to one whose name has become identified with the cause of Education, one who has labored with untiring assiduity to promote the welfare of the public schools throughout this Commonwealth, and who has watched with deep solicitude this Institution from its commencement to the present hour.* During the last ten years his efforts have been unceasing, and the beneficial result has been equal to what the most sanguine could have expected. If, at the call of his fellow-citizens, he has now entered another field, we may hope it will be to shed abroad, through the whole

* Hon. Horace Mann, Secretary of the Board of Education, who during the present year has been elected Representative to Congress, to fill the place of the late John Quincy Adams. His speech on the right of Congress to legislate for the Territories of the United States, and its duty to exclude Slavery therefrom, is one of the most powerful arguments ever delivered in Congress on the subject of Slavery.

land, just views upon the great subject which has long been dear to him, and while his words fly like the smiting thunder-bolt upon the evils of the land, may his wisdom shine like a guiding star to lighten the nation in the way of Justice and Truth.

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